

Remarks/Arguments:

This is a reply to the office action of January 28, 2004.

The claims have been amended for consistency with the corresponding European application, which has just been allowed.

Claim 19 is directed to a method for leasing threads into guide elements of a treatment device for treating the threads. According to claim 19, the threads are pulled through the treatment device with the leasing comb after they have been leased and fastened on the comb. The threads are transferred to the guide elements when they are pulled through the device with the leasing comb.

The prior art cited by the examiner (DE 3029987) does not relate to a method for leasing threads into elements of a treatment device. There is no treatment device. This document actually relates to leasing threads into the comb of a warping machine. In a warping machine, the threads are warped onto a warp beam (reference number 9, Fig. 1); however, they are not treated.

The examiner, referring to Fig. 7, correctly observed that the threads are leased into a warper comb 7. For this purpose, a portable threadholder is used. According to the last paragraph of page 16 of the translation, the operator moves the threadholder 10 over the warper comb 7. There is, however, no disclosure of pulling the threads attached to a leasing comb through a treatment device.

It is thus submitted that claim 19 is novel over this new prior art.

Claim 25 has been amended to require that an auxiliary device be formed as a leasing comb which has aligning elements for aligning the leasing comb onto the guide elements. The examiner referred to the pegs 17 as "aligning elements". Actually, the pegs are used in order to facilitate insertion of the threads into the threadholder (see, e.g., the penultimate paragraph of page 15). There is no disclosure that the pegs 17 could be used as aligning elements for aligning the leasing comb on the guide elements, i.e., on the warper combs 7, and in fact, such an alignment could not be achieved with the design shown in Figs. 4 - 7. The threads (which are arranged

between the pegs 17) have to be added into the interstices between the elements of the comb 7. Because the threads are arranged between the pegs 17 and are to be put between the elements of the comb 7, they are not suitable for aligning the threadholder 10 with respect to the warper comb 7. According to the last paragraph of page 16, the operator moves the threadholder 10 over the warper comb 7 so that the first thread ends up directly over the first free gap of the warper comb 7. The pegs 17 cannot be used for alignment.

It is therefore submitted that claim 25 as amended (and similarly claim 34 as amended) are new over the cited reference.

Formal drawings, which were required by the examiner, are attached.



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